

PROJECT RECOVERY UPDATE

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A division of the Mississippi
Department of Mental Health



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Recovery Process Continues

Even though time has past and media attention has decreased, the obstacles and struggles individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina face on a daily basis are still very much a reality.

Project Recovery continues daily to help in the recovery process by listening and providing referrals.

Since Sept. 22, 2005, Project Recovery has had 890,000 brief encounters (less than 15 minutes) and 150,000 individual crisis counseling sessions.

Project Recovery Outreach Workers are also focusing on children and the elderly.

The Region 8 teams recently had group encounters at Character Day at Magee Elementary School, Canton Flea Market, Pelahatchie Head Start, Brandon Day, Rankin County Senior Day, Chateau Ridgeland Assisted Living Center and a presentation at the Wesson Library. These events helped reach communities as a whole and included special needs groups such as children and the elderly.

Because of the hard work in the field, the success stories from across the state continue.

Three Outreach Workers from Region 14 had no idea what a treat they had in store when they recently responded to a referral from the Disaster Recovery Center.

Rene Hill, Lindsey Collins and Shelia Soles arrived at a Vietnamese woman's house expecting a routine encounter with a Katrina survivor; instead they found a woman of exceptional

strength, courage and faith whose story had begun many years before Katrina hit the Gulf Coast.

The woman had married an American soldier while he was deployed to the war in Vietnam. After the war, they returned to the U.S. and raised a son and daughter.

Two years ago, her husband passed away and she was devastated. Although her husband had been teaching her to read and write, she is illiterate.

During Katrina, she had eight feet of water in her home. She arrived at the Disaster Recovery Center helpless and hopeless. Many tears were shed as she opened up to Project Recovery for more than one hour during her visit.



Being very resourceful, she followed through on all the resources Project Recovery gave her. She was able to secure clothes, food, bedding and a water heater.

Rene, Sheila and Lindsey report that each time they visit the woman she seems stronger and cries only happy tears. She told them, "Without you, no one would have known I was here."



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**We Are Here
To Listen**

We're on the Web!
www.projectrecovery.ms.gov

Project Recovery Travels to Catfish Festival

Project Recovery Outreach Workers in Region 9 recently traveled to Humphreys County for the annual Catfish festival.

Outreach Workers were greeted by the mayor of Belzoni, the Chancery Court Clerk, Sheriff, and Congressman Bennie Thompson.

At the Catfish festival, Outreach Workers made contacts with

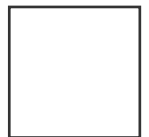
individuals affected by Katrina. The team also networked with community agencies and businesses to use as resources for providing disaster relief.

Outreach Workers continue to attend community events across the state to provide valuable information and resources to those who need help coping with the affects of Hurricane Katrina.

Picture

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